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especially those events which have led up to the readjustment of the balance of power in Europe—the signal accomplishment, so the author asserts, of the French diplomacy of the last decade.

The Franco-German War left the German Empire in the center of the European stage. The influence of Bismarck and the peculiar domestic and colonial problems confronting the other countries gave the Germans the chief rôle till the opening of the twentieth century. Then partly as a result of the Franco-Russian Alliance, Germany began to adopt an overbearing policy which, in 1905-6, resulted in her taking the aggressive measures adopted in the Morocco controversy. This dispute at first seemed to be going in favor of Germany but the Russian alliance, the Italian and Spanish agreements as to the Mediterranean, the *entente cordiale* with England, the impartial support of the United States and the veiled sympathy of Italy turned the affair into a fiasco in which Germany suffered a decided loss of prestige. The various steps in this diplomacy are reviewed in detail. France, the author holds, has broken down the German hegemony and restored the balance of power in Europe.

Two concluding chapters summarize the Eastern situation and the interests of France and the United States. The discussions of European politics are clear and accurate though there is occasionally a nationalistic tinge in the interpretations. Anyone who wishes to get a good summary of the complicated interrelations of European politics should read this book.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

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Thompson, J. A. *Heredity*. Pp. xvi, 605. Price, \$3.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

Last spring I wrote a review of this very important book. Unfortunately in some way this review was lost after it left my hands and the loss was unknown to me until recently. This, however, has given me a chance to use the book with several classes and with excellent results. The students have without exception found the volume interesting and clear.

I write of the book from the standpoint of the social worker and do not attempt to judge of its merits on biological grounds alone. It is not so much a record of individual research as a most careful and detailed comparison and criticism of the work of modern biologists. Carefulness is indeed one of the book's distinguishing features. No special theory is promulgated, though, of course, the author defines his own position. Every argument *pro* and *con* is stated and weighed. The beginner may at times be embarrassed by the detailed discussions, but the style is so clear, the meaning so obvious, that the book becomes a model. The author is the well-known Regius Professor of Natural History in the University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

After a chapter of definitions the author reviews the development of biological knowledge. Then the physical process of heredity is studied, cell life being treated at length. Here as elsewhere the text is accompanied by excellent illustrations, many in colors. Variation, and the many explanations

thereof, is treated along with many disputed questions such as maternal impressions. Naturally the question of the transmission of acquired characters receives much attention and the author puts himself among those who believe they are not transmitted. It should be noted that Professor Thompson everywhere separates the observed physical facts or processes from the theories advanced to account therefor. Late in the book, for instance one chapter is given to a history of the theories of heredity.

Disease is studied in the light of the newer knowledge and the change caused by the discovery of specific causes of disease (germs) is noted. Account is also taken of the methods of studying inheritance, by statistics, by experiment. In the latter chapter the work of Mendel and his followers, naturally receives much consideration. One of the author's earlier works, "The Evolution of Sex," of which he was a joint author, is recalled by the chapter on "Heredity and Sex."

To the social worker the last chapter will make special appeal. Its title is "Social Aspects of Biological Results." In this the author calls attention to the assistance biology can offer in solving certain social questions. The volume closes with a comprehensive bibliography and index.

I can hardly recommend this book too highly, for it so clearly states what is and what is not known. Its tone is conservative and no wild statements are found. It should be in every library and every social student may read it with profit.

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Walling, W. E. *Russia's Message*. Pp. xviii, 467. Price, \$3.00. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1908.

Russia's Message is a profound study of the Russian Revolution. In thoroughness of treatment, in mastery of detail, and in grasp of the many forces,—physical, economic, moral, political,—that go to make up the gigantic struggle of the Russian people against autocracy, it has hardly an equal among recent works on the subject by foreign observers.

Owing to the important part which the land question has played in the Douma and in the country at large, a considerable part of the book is taken up with a description of the economic condition of the peasantry, special attention being given to the terms of the emancipation of 1861, and the effect it produced both upon the lot of the individual peasant and upon the economy of Russia's most important single industry—agriculture. The style of presentation is calculated to appeal to the general reader rather than the economic student, and the human element is kept to the fore. The description of the wretched life of the half-starved peasantry cannot fail to appeal to any intelligent reader, whether economist or not. The recital of the cruelties practiced upon the peasants by the local government agents, among whom Premier Stolypin, at the time governor of the Province of Saratov, figures very prominently, is appalling, yet is supported by circumstantial details taken from official documents.